introduced in the Parliament at the earliest.

(b) The Government has received several complaints against the Haj Committee. These complaints were in the nature of delay in refunds due to the pilgrims, unsatisfactory accommodation and transport in Makkah, number of times the Members of Haj Committee travelled to Saudi Arabia and allowances drawn by them, misuse of free air tickets received from the Airlines and the mismanagement of Haj Committee funds.

(c) and (d) The complaints have been looked into the appropriate action has been taken, whenever necessary.

Disposal of Toxic Wastes

*27. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hospitals and nursing homes in Delhi;

(b) whether there is any law requiring them to destroy the toxic wastes and other infected material which they are turning out in large quantity every day; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to initiate any action in this direction in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) There are 86 hospitals and 201 registered nursing homes in Delhi.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Environment & Forests have notified on 24.4.1995, the Draft Bio-medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules 1995 which have again been notified on 16.10.1997 as Draft Rules for obtaining objections or suggestions from the public. 60 days time has been allowed for filing of objections or suggestions from the public, from the date of notification. These Draft rules shall be applicable to hospitals, nursing homes, veterinary institutions, animal houses or slaughter houses, clinics, dispensaries, laboratories providing treatment to not less than 1000 patients per month. According to these rules the Bio-medical wastes are to be handled as per the prescribed procedures which specify responsibility for handling Bio-medical waste, its segregation, packing, transportation, storage, treatment, disposal maintenance of records, accident reporting and export-import methods for Bio-medical wastes. The rules also specify the responsibility of Bio-medical waste generators and operators.

The Central Pollution Control Board has also developed Environmental Standards and guidelines for management of hospital waste.

Departmental Examination for Section Officers/Senior P.As

*28. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Public Service Commission had conducted Section Officers/Senior P.As Departmental Examination in December, 1996;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Commission has not declared the result of the written part of that examination, so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Commission is going to conduct another examination in December, 1997;

(e) whether it is necessary to declare final result of the 1996 examination before conducting the 1997 examination; and

(f) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It has become necessary to examine the applicability of the instructions issued by the Government vide Department of Personnel & Training O.M. No. 36012/23/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 22.7.97 on the basis of the judgement of the Supreme Court of India in the case of S. Vinod Kumar Vs Union of India (JT) 1996 (8) SC (6431) before the result of the Section Officers/Senior P.A. Departmental Examination,

1996 are declared. The Commission is now in the process of declaring the results.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise, in view of (e) above.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet at Edinburgh

*29. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister addressed CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet) held at Edinburgh in October, 1997;

(b) if so, what are the details of discussions held there and whether he was able to put forth a forceful case on behalf of the develping countries of the Commonwealth on issues of mass poverty and the problems of terrorism and drug-trafficking;

(c) whether he felt satisfied with the outcome of decisions taken at the Edinburgh Summit including his talks with other Heads of Government; and

(d) if so, with what results, particularly his meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) to (d) The PM addressed CHOGM held at Edinburgh in October, 1997. The discussions covered a wide range of subjects. The Prime Minister put forward a forceful case on behalf of the developing countries of the Commonwealth not only on issues of mass poverty and the problems of terrorism and drug-trafficking but also on a number of other issues.

The Prime Minister was satisfied both with the outcome of the discussions at the Commonwealth Summit, as also with his bilateral discussions with other Heads of Government, which were extremely useful and productive.

The Prime Minister had bilateral discussions with British PM Tony Blair, Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif, Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumartunga and Mauritian PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam. The meetings not only provided an opportunity to review bilateral relations but also to discuss other issues of mutual interest.

PM's meeting with Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif continued the renewed process of interaction at the highest political level between the two countries. The two leaders agreed on the need to enlarge people-to-people interaction and for this purpose to further relax visa regulations to enable greater travel between the two countries. They agreed that the staff strength of the Missions of the two countries would be augmented to facilitate the issuance of more visas. The two Prime Ministers decided that to mark the golden jubilee of the Independence of both countries, a series of lectures would be organised in both the countries in which prominent personalities in different fields from each others' countries would participate. The two Prime Ministers also directed the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries to continue their talks on the modalities for discussions on the subjects identified in the Joint Statement which was issued at the second round of Foreign Secretary level talks in Islamabad in June, 1997.

Visit to Foreign Countries

*30. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries visited by the Prime Minister during the inter-session period;

(b) the purpose of these visits;

(c) the details of the discussions that took place with the respective Governments; and

(d) the outcome of each of such discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALIM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) to (d) The Prime Minister visited Tanzania, New York, Italy, Uganda, South Africa, Egypt and Edinburgh after the conclusion of the Monsoon Session.

Prime Minister visited Tanzania (September 18-20), Uganda (October 4-5) and South Africa (October 5-10) in Sub-Saharan Africa. The visits were intended to provide renewed focus